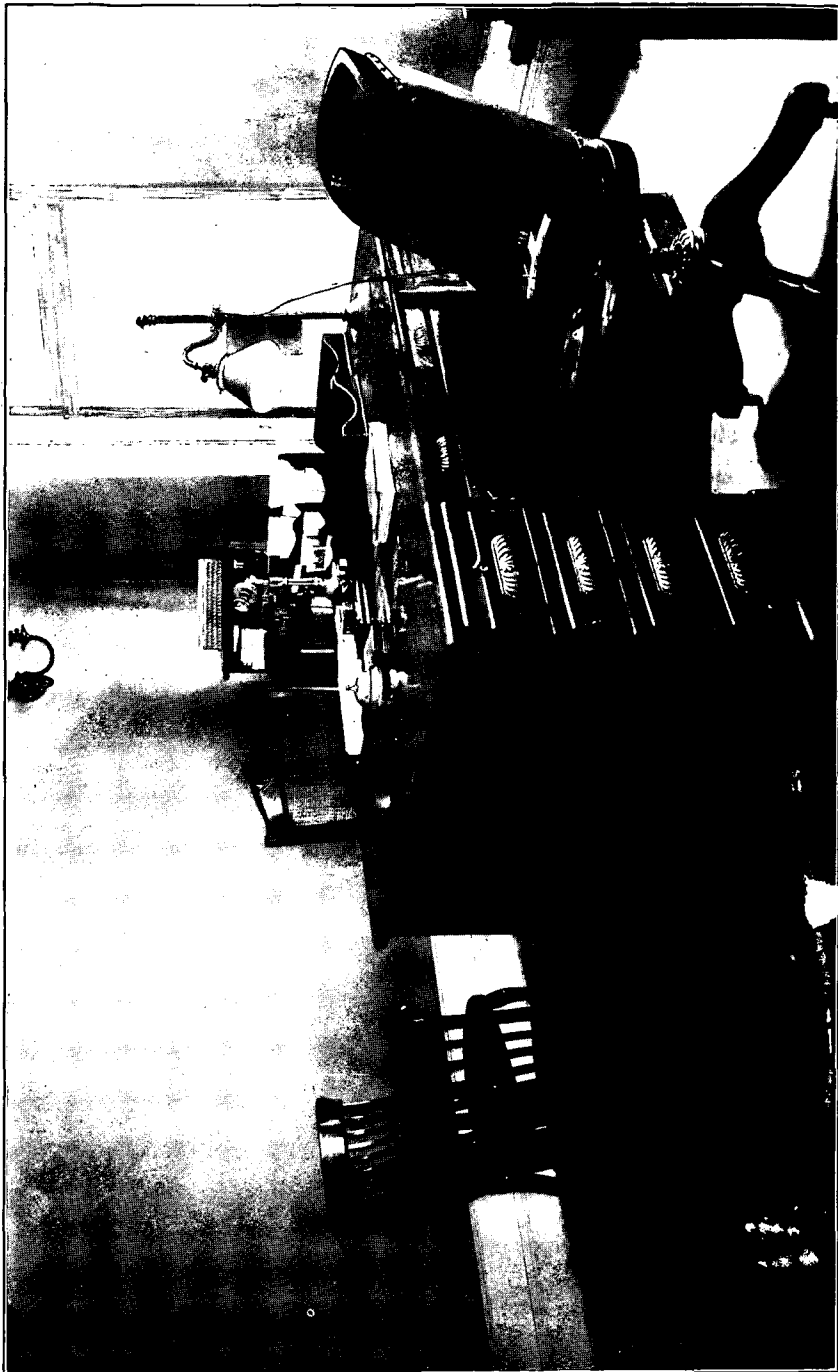


Organization of Department of Commerce and Labor



TEMPORARY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE, FEBRUARY 18 TO MARCH 15, 1903

## CHAPTER I

### ORIGIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

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The preamble to the Constitution lays down broadly two great aims of government—(1) the defense of the life, liberty, and property of the citizen, and (2) the promotion of his general welfare.

In the year following the adoption of the Constitution, three of the executive branches of Government, with Secretaries, were established: First, the Department of Foreign Affairs, by act approved July 27, 1789 (name changed to Department of State by act approved September 15, of the same year); second, the War Department, created by the act of August 7, 1789 (then embracing naval affairs); and third, the Treasury Department, established by act of September 2, 1789. From its beginning the Treasury Department has been the principal agency of government through which a limited supervision of the commercial and industrial life of the nation has been administered, and the designation sought to be given its chief officer in the constitutional convention was that of "Secretary of Commerce and Finance."<sup>a</sup>

The record of events, from the close of the Revolution to the constitutional convention at Philadelphia in 1787, shows that the desire to foster the commerce and trade of the States was the paramount and controlling argument which made the Union possible.

The constitutional convention of the thirteen States was the direct outcome of the Annapolis convention of five States, and this convention, in turn, was born of the Mount Vernon convention of delegates from the States of Virginia and Maryland, assembled to adjust and promote commerce and trade between these two States. The commissioners from Virginia and Maryland met at Alexandria, in the former State, in the spring of 1785, but General Washington extended to them the hospitality of his home, which they accepted, and the delegates—all prominent men of their day, and friends of Washington—conducted their deliberations at Mount Vernon, aided, no doubt, by the counsel of their host, whose interest in and knowledge of the subject under discussion had long been manifest, and who, two years later, presided at the constitutional convention at Philadelphia. The sole subject of this meeting at the home of Washington was the commerce and trade between the two States; but in reality, these men

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<sup>a</sup> Documentary History of the Constitution.

were enacting the prologue to what was to be in fact an indissoluble Union.

The Mount Vernon convention recommended that representatives be appointed annually to confer on the commercial and trade relations of the States. In considering this report, Maryland passed a resolution inviting Pennsylvania and Delaware to join in these annual conventions; while in the Virginia assembly Madison penned a resolution appointing commissioners to meet such as should be delegated by *the other States* "to take into consideration the trade of the United States," and "to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations may be necessary to their common interest and permanent harmony."<sup>a</sup>

The immediate result of the conference on trade and commerce held at Mount Vernon was that in the following year, 1786, commissioners from five of the thirteen States assembled by appointment at Annapolis, "to take into consideration the trade and commerce of the United States." In this convention, Hamilton drew up an address, which Madison and Randolph signed with him, recommending a general meeting of the States in a future convention, and an extension of the powers of their delegates to other objects than those of commerce, as in the course of their reflections on the subject, they had been "induced to think that the power to regulate Trade is of such comprehensive extent and will enter so far into the General System of the Foederal Government, that to give it efficacy, and to obviate questions and doubts concerning its precise nature and limits, may require a correspondent adjustment of other Parts of the Foederal System."<sup>b</sup>

In the constitutional convention, August 20, 1787, Mr. Gouverneur Morris, seconded by Mr. Pinckney, submitted a proposal that there should be a council of state to "assist the President in conducting the public affairs," the third member of this council to be a "Secretary of Commerce and Finance," whose duties were in part to "recommend such things as may in his judgment promote the commercial interests of the United States." This plan also provided for a Secretary of Domestic Affairs to have supervision of agriculture, manufactures, roads, and navigation.<sup>b</sup> The Constitution, as adopted, makes no provision for a cabinet or council of state, but President Washington immediately invited the Secretaries of the three Departments first mentioned, and the Attorney-General, appointed under the act of September 24, 1789, to become members of his official family. The Department of Justice was established by the act approved June 22, 1870.

During the period between the close of the Federal convention and the ratification of the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, writing on the subject of commerce, says:

"The importance of the Union, in a commercial light, is one of

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<sup>a</sup> Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.

<sup>b</sup> Documentary History of the Constitution.

those points about which there is least room to entertain a difference of opinion, and which has, in fact, commanded the most general assent of men who have any acquaintance with the subject. This applies as well to our intercourse with foreign countries as with each other.”<sup>a</sup>

In 1788, the same year in which the above was written by Hamilton, Commodore John Paul Jones, in a letter to the Marquise de Lafayette concerning the Constitution, stated:

“Had I the power I would create at least seven ministries in the primary organization of government under the Constitution. In addition to the four already agreed upon, I would ordain a Ministry of Marine, a Ministry of Home Affairs, and a General Post Office; and, as commerce must be our great reliance, it would not be amiss to create also as the eighth a Ministry of Commerce.”<sup>b</sup> The remarkable foresight of the great commodore enabled him to name the Cabinet as it is to-day, practically in the order in which it grew, agriculture being included by him in the Interior (Home) Department where it actually was for a time.

When the Constitution had been ratified by eleven States, and the Congress, under its authority to “regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States,” proceeded solemnly to treat the commerce and manufactures of the two remaining States in the same manner as those of any foreign country, it was from a sense of their commercial interests that they hastened to enroll themselves with their sister Commonwealths, although one of these two States had not even participated in the convention.

Thus, not only were the commercial and industrial interests of the States an important and controlling influence in bringing them into the Federal convention, but a realization of the commercial advantages of the Union induced the States to ratify the Constitution.

We find in the first annual address to the Congress of an American President, General Washington, the following words: “The advancement of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures by all proper means will not, I trust, need recommendation.” The first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, gave special consideration to the commerce and industries of the country, and his special reports on these subjects, in which he recommended that a board be established for promoting arts, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, demonstrate that he considered this function of the Treasury Department one of primary importance.

Hastened by impending war with France, the act of April 30, 1798, was passed, establishing the Navy Department, and its Secretary became the fifth member of the Cabinet. In 1829 the Postmaster-General entered the Cabinet for the first time, on the invitation of President Jackson, though this office had been in existence since the

<sup>a</sup> *Federalist*.

<sup>b</sup> Original manuscript in archives of Congressional Library.

act of September 22, 1789. The General Post-Office was constituted the Post-Office Department by the act approved June 8, 1872.

The discussions in the early Congresses looking toward the establishment of another Executive Department centered around what was termed a "Home Department," and the then important work of government in connection with land and Indian affairs formed the nucleus from which was established, in 1849, under the act of March 3 of that year, the Department of the Interior, whose Secretary became the seventh Cabinet member. As the business interests of the country entered largely into the provisions of the various measures anticipating the Interior Department, it may be well to notice some of these reports: In a bill to establish a Home Department, introduced by Representative Vining, of Delaware, in the First Congress, July 23, 1789, the duties of the proposed Department were, in part, "to report to the President plans for the protection and improvement of manufactures, agriculture, and commerce." The outcome of this movement was the change in name of Department of Foreign Affairs to Department of State, above noted, and the giving of duties to the State Department not comfortable with the original name.

President Madison's message of December 3, 1816, recommended the establishment of "an additional Department in the executive branch of the Government;" and the Senate committee to which this recommendation was referred reported a bill to establish a Home Department to have charge of such subjects as the President might direct. In 1825, the subject was again revived and Representative Newton offered a resolution that a Department to be denominated "The Home Department should be established for the purpose of superintending whatever may relate to the interests of agriculture and manufactures, the promotion of the progress of science and the arts, the intercourse and trade between the several States by roads and canals." This resolution was not agreed to.

In his message of December 6, 1825, President John Quincy Adams recommended a reorganization of the Executive Departments, and the committee of the House of Representatives to which this matter was referred, by its chairman, Daniel Webster, reported a bill to establish a new Department. The report stated that "at the organization of the Government, it appears to have been the original design in regard to the Executive Departments, that there should be a distinct and separate Department for such internal or domestic affairs as appertain to the General Government."

On December 15, 1836, the resolution of Mr. Benton, of Missouri, that "the annual statement of the commerce and navigation of the United States be hereafter printed under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and be communicated in printed form as soon as possible after the commencing of each stated session of Congress," was adopted by the Senate.

Notwithstanding the discussions leading up to the establishment of the Department of the Interior, very few of the commercial and industrial agencies of Government were put under the control of that Department, most of them remaining under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The movement for the creation of an additional Executive Department, following the establishment of the Interior Department, took many and varied phases. The names proposed in the different bills to establish a new Department indicate their provisions. These names included the following titles, grouped together in various ways: Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Industries, Manufactures, Patents, Mining, Navigation, Transportation, and Mechanics. (See end of chapter for proposed legislation.)

The first industries of the country to be accorded an Executive Department by the Congress were those of agriculture, when the Department of Agriculture, established by act of May 15, 1862, was constituted an Executive Department, with a Secretary of Agriculture (eighth member of the Cabinet), by the act of February 9, 1889. The labor interests received recognition in the establishment of the Bureau of Labor under the act of Congress approved June 27, 1884; this Bureau was constituted the Department of Labor and the Commissioner of Labor was continued in charge, by act of Congress approved June 13, 1888. The commercial and manufacturing interests of the country, as far as Governmental supervision and cooperation were concerned, were left to offices distributed among the several Departments. The business of Government increased in volume as the country grew in age, and during the last half of the nineteenth century the work of the fiscal branch of the Treasury so absorbed the attention of the head of that Department that his supervision of commercial matters had lost the importance it had enjoyed under the first Secretary of the Treasury.

Commercial conventions at Detroit in 1865, and at Boston in 1868, and the National Board of Trade in 1874, memorialized the Congress for the establishment of a Department of Commerce, in order that the rapidly increasing volume of capital invested in commerce and manufactures might be the subject of Governmental aid and supervision; many similar petitions have been presented to the Congress, and the subject has been referred to in the more recent political platforms and annual messages of the President. These petitions, and the representatives of commercial organizations before the committees of Congress, stated that the United States was a distinctly commercial and industrial nation; that the Twelfth Census showed the aggregate value of the products of the manufacturing establishments of the United States, during the census year ending June 1, 1900, to exceed thirteen billion dollars, which is probably nearly four times the aggregate value of all the products of agriculture during the same year; that the same

arguments advanced for the creation of the Department of Agriculture were applicable to one for the commercial and industrial life of the country; that the manufacturing interests in the United States exceeded in volume and importance the industrial interests of any nation in the world, and yet there was no Government office specially charged with any duties relating directly to them, and that in this respect the United States was almost alone among the nations of the world; that agriculture, labor, transportation, mining, fisheries, and forestry all had distinct recognition in one form or another, but not so with the manufacturing interests.

The country's need for a Department of Commerce and Labor, which had become national in scope in 1874, was forced to give way temporarily in order that all the energy of the commerce committees of Congress might be centered upon the eradication of the transportation evil of rebates. This resulted in the establishment of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887.

The movement for the establishment of the new department gathered headway until, during the first session of the Fifty-seventh Congress, Senate bill No. 569 was introduced to establish a Department of Commerce [and Labor]. This measure, after earnest discussion, passed the Senate with little or no opposition, and passed the House early in the second session. It was approved by the President February 14, 1903. (The legislative history of this bill is given in Chapter XVI.)

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor became the ninth member of the President's Cabinet.

It may appear strange that one hundred and fourteen years elapsed before the Department became a reality, when its need was felt and its value recognized at the very beginning. The answer is ready. Conservative action on the important subject of increasing the number of executive departments has been the rule of the Congress. The name "Department of Foreign Affairs" was changed to "Department of State" in order that the field of that department might be enlarged and the creation of a home department avoided; the naval affairs were consolidated with those of the Army to make unnecessary a separate Department of the Navy. In this grouping in one department of matters that would logically form two, it was but natural that commerce and finance should at first abide together. The tendency of the national legislature to follow and not lead in enlarging the executive side of government compelled the Department of Commerce and Labor to wait, as each of the older departments in its turn had waited, until the demand for the legislation became paramount and unanimous, and until the field of its activity was already so large and the urgent appeal so loud that none but an affirmative answer could be given.



TEMPORARY OFFICES, BUILDERS' EXCHANGE BUILDING, MARCH 16 TO JUNE 16, 1903



**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS ANTICIPATING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR**

- February 8, 1864, Thirty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Orth introduced a bill to create and organize a Department of the Government to be called the Department of Industry. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.
- March 26, 1866, House of Representatives. Mr. Grinnell introduced a bill to establish a Manufacturing and Statistical Division of the Treasury Department. Referred to Committee on Manufactures.
- March 26, 1867, House of Representatives. Mr. Baker offered a resolution instructing Select Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of constituting a standing Committee on Labor. Adopted.
- May 25, 1868. Mr. Pile introduced a joint resolution (H. J. Res. 274) authorizing the appointment of a Commercial Commissioner. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- March 31, 1870. Mr. Logan introduced a resolution requesting the delivery of an address on the principles and objects of the National Labor Union, by some member of their association, in the hall of the House of Representatives. The restriction of the importation of labor was debated in Congress as early as 1871.
- April 10, 1871, Forty-second Congress, first session. Mr. Hoar introduced a bill (H. R. 374) to provide for the appointment of a commission on the subject of wages and hours of labor and the division of profits between labor and capital in the United States. Reported from Committee on Education and Labor December 13, 1871. Passed December 21, 1871.
- December 5, 1871, Mr. Killinger introduced a resolution in the House to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Labor Bureau in connection with the Department of Agriculture. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- December 11, 1871, Forty-second Congress, second session. Mr. Shanks introduced a bill (H. R. 550) to establish a Bureau of Labor, with a Commissioner of Labor.
- January 6, 1874, Forty-third Congress, first session. Mr. Shanks introduced a bill (H. R. 1458) establishing a Bureau of Labor. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- January 12, 1874, Forty-third Congress, first session. Mr. Woodworth introduced a bill (H. R. 1094) to establish a Bureau of Transportation to regulate the management of interstate commerce. Referred to Committee on Railways and Canals.
- January 19, 1874, Forty-third Congress, first session. Mr. Biery introduced a bill (H. R. 1246) to establish a Department of Manufactures and Mining. Referred to Committee on Manufactures.

- May 15, 1874, Forty-third Congress, first session. Mr. Windom introduced a bill (S. 820) to establish a Bureau of Internal Commerce. Referred to Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard. June 4, 1874, reported with amendments.
- December 14, 1874, Forty-third Congress, second session. Mr. Stanford introduced a bill (H. R. 3992) to establish a Department of Commerce, which, with accompanying memorial from the National Board of Trade, was referred to the Committee on Commerce.
- December 14, 1875, Forty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Stone introduced a bill (H. R. 84) to establish a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce and reported adversely.
- March 31, 1876, Forty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Campbell introduced a bill (H. R. 2950) providing for the appointment of a commission on the subject of labor and capital.
- October 29, 1877, Forty-fifth Congress, first session. Mr. Peddie introduced a bill (H. R. 106) to establish a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- February 11, 1879, Forty-fifth Congress, third session. Mr. Cameron proposed a joint resolution (S. J. Res. 60) providing for a commission to consider and report what legislation is needed for the better regulation of commerce among the States. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- May 5, 1879, Forty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. Murch introduced a bill (H. R. 1383) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.
- June 4, 1879, Forty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. Russell secured adoption of a resolution that the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire and report wherein existing laws can be so amended as to afford relief to the commercial interests of the country, and what measures can be adopted by the Congress of the United States calculated to secure a return of their commercial prosperity.
- December 8, 1879, Forty-sixth Congress, second session. Mr. Hoar introduced a bill (S. 771) to establish a Labor Commission. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- February 9, 1880, Forty-sixth Congress, second session. Mr. Young introduced a bill (H. R. 4327) to establish a Department of Manufactures, Mechanics, and Mines. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
- April 12, 1880, Forty-sixth Congress, second session. Mr. Warner introduced a bill (H. R. 5797) to establish a Bureau of Mines and Mining, a Bureau of Manufactures, and a Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Interior Department, and to change the designation of the existing Bureau of Statistics to Bureau of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.

- March 1, 1880, Forty-sixth Congress, second session. Mr. Cox submitted a resolution that the Secretary of State be requested to inform the House what measures, if any, may in his opinion be advantageously taken for the more frequent publication and wider circulation of commercial reports received by the Department from its officers abroad; also as to methods of publishing these reports in other countries. Adopted.
- December 7, 1881, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Davis introduced a bill (S. 302) to establish a Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Referred to Committee on Agriculture. S. 1562 reported as substitute, to constitute Department of Agriculture an Executive Department.
- December 13, 1881, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Murch introduced a bill (H. R. 617) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- January 23, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Cassidy introduced a bill (H. R. 3367) to establish a Bureau of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- February 13, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Young introduced a bill (H. R. 4375) to establish a Department of Manufactures, Mechanics, and Mines. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- February 14, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. A bill (S. 1198) was introduced to establish a Bureau for the registration of ships and seagoing vessels and for the encouragement of United States shipping. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- March 27, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Phelps introduced a bill (H. R. 5403) to establish a Department of Industry. Referred to Committee on Revision of Laws.
- December 4, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, second session. Mr. Page introduced a bill (H. R. 6907) to establish a Department of Commerce and Navigation. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- December 4, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, second session. Mr. Rosecrans introduced a bill (H. R. 6913) to establish a Department of Commerce and Navigation. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- December 5, 1882, Forty-seventh Congress, second session. Mr. Miller introduced a bill (S. 2197) to establish a Department of Commerce and Navigation. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- December 4, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Blair introduced a bill (S. 140) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor, reported with an amendment, debated, but not passed.

- December 10, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Rosecrans introduced a bill (H. R. 60) to establish a Department of Commerce and Navigation. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- December 10, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Willis introduced a bill (H. R. 649) to establish a Bureau of Statistics of Labor and Industries. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- December 10, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Dingley introduced a bill (H. R. 693) to constitute a Bureau of Commerce and Navigation in the Treasury Department.
- December 11, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. O'Neill introduced a bill (H. R. 894) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.
- December 11, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Hopkins introduced a bill (H. R. 1340) to establish a Department of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor. Approved by President June 27, 1884.
- December 18, 1883, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Frye introduced a bill (S. 738) to constitute a Bureau of Commerce and Navigation in the Treasury Department. Referred to Committee on Commerce and reported adversely.
- January 8, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. McKinley introduced a bill (H. R. 3020) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- January 8, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Foran introduced a bill (H. R. 2549) to establish a Department of Industry. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- January 10, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Lamb introduced a bill (H. R. 3060) to establish a Bureau of Labor Statistics. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- January 10, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Dingley introduced a bill (H. R. 3056) to establish a Bureau of Navigation, Treasury Department. Approved by President, July 5, 1884.
- January 14, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Dunham introduced a bill (H. R. 3120) to establish a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- January 21, 1884, Forty-eighth Congress, first session. Mr. Wood introduced a bill (H. R. 3595) to authorize the governor of each State of the United States to appoint commissioners to establish a system of international commerce, and to decide the practicability of establishing a Bureau of International Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce, and reported adversely.

- December 21, 1885, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Weaver introduced a bill (H. R. 585) to establish an Executive Department of Labor, with a Secretary of Labor. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- January 7, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Dunham introduced a bill (H. R. 3036) to establish a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- February 3, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Hatch introduced a bill (H. R. 5190) to enlarge the duties of the Department of Agriculture, and providing for a Department of Agriculture and Labor.
- March 1, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Butterworth introduced a bill (H. R. 6202) to establish a Department of Industry and Bureau of Labor. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- April 26, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Springer introduced a bill (H. R. 8119) to establish a Department of Labor, and to create a board for the arbitration of controversies between labor and capital. Referred to Committee on Labor.
- May 10, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Breckenridge introduced a bill (H. R. 8629) to establish a Department of Agriculture and Industry. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.
- May 10, 1886, Forty-ninth Congress, first session. Mr. Reagan introduced a bill (H. R. 8674) to establish a Department of Industries. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- May 22, 1886, House of Representatives. Mr. Osborne presented memorial of the board of trade of Philadelphia, urging the necessity of a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- January 4, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Mr. Springer introduced a bill (H. R. 1280) to establish a Department of Labor, and to create a board for the arbitration of controversies between labor and capital.
- January 4, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Mr. Townshend introduced a bill (H. R. 1283) for the establishment of a Department of Industries and Public Works. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.
- January 9, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Mr. Hatch introduced a bill (H. R. 3408) to enlarge the duties of the Department of Agriculture, and to create an Executive Department to be known as the Department of Agriculture and Labor. Referred to Committee on Agriculture. H. R. 8191 (March 7, 1888) below substituted for it.

January 9, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Mr. McCreary introduced a bill (H. R. 3368) to create a Department to be known as the Department of Agriculture and Labor. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

March 7, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Committee on Agriculture, as substitute for H. R. 3408, introduced a bill (H. R. 8191) to enlarge the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture, and to create an Executive Department to be known as the Department of Agriculture. This bill went to a conference committee.

March 15, 1888, Fiftieth Congress, first session. Mr. O'Neill introduced a bill (H. R. 8560) to establish a Department of Labor. Approved by President June 18, 1888.

(Numerous petitions for a Department of Commerce were presented during the first session of the Fifty-first Congress.)

January 15, 1891, Fifty-first Congress, second session. Mr. Frye introduced a bill (S. 4859) to establish the Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.

January 5, 1892, Fifty-second Congress, first session. Mr. Simpson introduced a bill (H. R. 135) to establish a Department of Finance and Commerce. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

January 9, 1892, Fifty-second Congress, first session. Mr. Belford introduced a bill (H. R. 2191) to establish a Bureau of Mines and Mining, a Bureau of Manufactures, and a Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Interior Department, and to change the designation of the existing Bureau of Statistics to Bureau of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.

February 1, 1892, Fifty-second Congress, first session. Mr. Caminetti introduced a bill (H. R. 5161) to establish a Department of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.

February 14, 1893, Fifty-second Congress, second session. Mr. Miller introduced a bill (H. R. 10503) to establish an Executive Department of Public Labor. Referred to Committee of Revision of Laws.

December 7, 1893, Fifty-second Congress, second session. Mr. Doolittle introduced a bill (H. R. 4514) to enlarge the duties of the Bureau of Labor, and to create an Executive Department to be known as the Department of Labor. Referred to Committee on Labor.

January 10, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Cobb introduced a bill (H. R. 3619) to enlarge the duties and powers of the department of commerce, and to create an Executive Department to be known as the Department of Commerce. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

- January 21, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Cobb introduced a bill (H. R. 4447) to create an Executive Department to be known as the Department of Commerce. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- February 17, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Tracey introduced a bill (H. R. 6196) to create a Department of Commerce. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- March 9, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Frye introduced a bill (S. 2447) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.
- March 16, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Barrett introduced a bill (H. R. 7254) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- June 4, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session. Mr. Tracey introduced a bill (H. R. 9346) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- December 15, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session. Mr. Meyer introduced a bill (H. R. 9667) to establish a Department of Commerce, Manufactures, and Labor. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- December 17, 1896, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session. Mr. Phillips introduced a bill (H. R. 9188) authorizing the appointment of a nonpartisan commission to collate information and to consider and recommend legislation to meet the problems presented by labor, agriculture, and capital. Reported as signed in the Senate, March 3, 1897.
- January 28, 1897, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session. Mr. Watson introduced a bill (H. R. 10179) to establish a Department of Labor. Referred to the Committee on Labor.
- March 18, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, first session. Mr. Frye introduced a bill (S. 624) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.
- March 18, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, first session. A bill (H. R. 398) to provide national supervision, etc., over certain corporations. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
- March 18, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, first session. Mr. Barrett introduced a bill (H. R. 410) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- March 24, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, first session. Mr. Brownlow introduced a bill (H. R. 2128) to establish a Department of Commerce, Labor, and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

June 22, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, first session. S. 2253. (Same as H. R. 9188, above, December 17, 1896.)

December 9, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Hepburn introduced a bill (H. R. 4364) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries.

December 10, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Low introduced a bill (H. R. 4583). (See H. R. 398, March 18, 1897, above.)

December 13, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Baker introduced a bill (H. R. 4774) to establish the Department of Commerce, Manufactures, Industries, and Labor. Referred to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

December 13, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, introduced a bill (S. 2736) to establish a division in the Treasury Department for the regulation of insurance among the several States. Referred to Committee on Commerce.

December 16, 1897, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Baker introduced a bill (H. R. 5162) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries. Referred to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

January 6, 1898, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session. Mr. Barham introduced a bill (H. R. 5861) to create an Executive Department of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.

January 12, 1899, Fifty-fifth Congress, third session. Mr. Osborne introduced a bill (H. R. 11571) to establish a Department of Mineralogy and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.

December 5, 1899, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill (H. R. 938) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

December 6, 1899, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. Frye introduced a bill (S. 738) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries. Referred to Committee on Commerce.

December 11, 1899, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session (S. Doc. 16). President McKinley transmitted to Congress resolutions of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, requesting legislation authorizing the appointment of commercial attachés at the principal embassies and legations of the United States, and setting forth that England, Germany, and Russia had such officials.

January 3, 1900, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. McComas introduced a bill (S. 2018) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries. Referred to Committee on Commerce.



- January 3, 1900, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session. Mr. Barham introduced a bill (H. R. 5030) to create a Department of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- February 18, 1901, Fifty-sixth Congress, second session. Mr. Ridgely introduced a bill (H. R. 14233) to regulate commerce and industries. Referred to Committee on Reform in the Civil Service.
- December 2, 1901, Fifth-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Brownlow introduced a bill (H. R. 14) to establish a Department of Commerce, Labor, and Manufactures. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- December 2, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Schirm introduced a bill (H. R. 95) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries. Referred to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- December 3, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill (H. R. 2026) to establish a Department of Commerce and Manufactures. Referred to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- December 4, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. McComas introduced a bill (S. 343) to establish a Department of Commerce and Industries.
- December 4, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Nelson introduced a bill (S. 569) to establish a Department of Commerce [and Labor]. Approved by President, February 14, 1903.
- December 10, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Gibson introduced a bill (H. R. 4404) to establish the Bureau of Mines and Mining in the Department of Labor. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- December 18, 1901, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Woods introduced a bill (H. R. 7195) to establish a Department of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- January 27, 1902, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Teller introduced a bill (S. 3202) to establish a Department of Mines and Mining. Referred to Committee on Mines and Mining.
- April 11, 1902, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Sulzer introduced a bill (H. R. 13526) to establish a Department of Labor. Referred to the Committee on Labor.
- May 2, 1902, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Sulzer introduced a bill (H. R. 14166) to establish a Department of Commerce. Referred to Committee on Commerce.
- May 16, 1902, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session. Mr. Heitfeld introduced a bill (S. 5868) to establish a Department of Labor. Referred to Committee on Education and Labor.